

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, we truly have a historic opportunity today. That is to pass a balanced budget amendment. The time is finally here. We can pass a balanced budget amendment with a 60-percent supermajority to pass a tax increase.

Mr. Speaker, I doubt if there is any Member of this body who campaigned on the right to increase taxes. In fact, many of those who did raise taxes are no longer with us in this body. The Barton amendment gives Republicans and Democrats the opportunity to match their rhetoric with the reality of their votes here in Washington.

Back home in Indiana, a 60-percent supermajority to pass a tax increase does not seem enough. In fact, in Indiana they would like 100 percent of this House to have to approve a tax increase, maybe twice, and maybe if they pass it, even an extra clause for a caning for those who pass the tax increase. At the grass roots they do not understand why we cannot decrease the size of Government rather than constantly increase taxes.

Mr. Speaker, today we have the opportunity to pass that. The people of Indiana, the people of this Nation, are watching. I hope we can get the supermajority necessary to pass this protection for our children and ourselves out into the future.

OPPOSITION TO THE MEXICAN BAILOUT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I do not think Congress gets it yet. Eighty-one percent of the American people do not support bailing out Mexico because many of them are worried about losing their job, worried about losing their health insurance, worried about losing their pension, and worried about losing their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask. When the steel mills closed in Ohio and Pennsylvania, where was Uncle Sam? When the farmers were losing their land in the eighties and farmers were literally committing suicide, where was Uncle Sam?

The truth of the matter is the American people are not foolish. When people overseas are in trouble, Uncle Sam jumps in with all four feet, but when the American people are in trouble, Uncle Sam says "Let Willy Nelson take care of it." I am opposed to this bailout.

Let me say this, Mr. Speaker, While Congress is debating bailing out Mexico, the Federal Reserve is debating raising the interest rates on our people. Beam me up.

URGING MEMBERS TO JOIN IN SUPPORTING THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, 12 years ago this month I was elected to the State legislature in Michigan and entered politics full time for the first time in my life. At that time I opposed the Federal balanced budget amendment. Today I will be voting for the balanced budget amendment.

Why did I have that change of heart? It is because of my experience at the State level, working with a balanced budget amendment and a line-item veto, and seeing that it works. Furthermore, it came from observing that over the past half century Congress has not demonstrated that it has the collective self-discipline to balance the budget. It needs some outside impetus to require it.

I have seen it work at the State level. The fact that it exists forces the State legislatures to balance their budgets. If we have a Federal balanced budget amendment, that will force our Congress to balance the budget that they submit to the President each year.

Mr. Speaker, let us not forget our children and grandchildren and our obligation to them. Let us join in supporting the balanced budget amendment.

CONGRESS MUST EXCLUDE PROGRAMS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE ELDERLY FROM BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT CUTS

(Mr. HILLIARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, haste makes waste.

Mr. Speaker, I addressed the Committee on Rules in an attempt to get an exemption to the balanced budget amendment considered. That exemption would have provided that Aid to Dependent Children would have been exempted from any consideration on a balanced budget.

It is very important that any society, any country, realize that in order to be a country that is civilized, it must protect two groups: Those who are unable to protect themselves, the elderly and the young. Unless some provisions are made, we will fail to do that.

America is strong, not just because of the fact that it is economically secure. It is strong because over the years it has made sure that it takes care of those individuals that cannot fend for themselves.

For Congress to do less would be reneging on the legacy of democracy, Mr. Speaker, and I submit that haste makes waste, that sometime in the future we will regret the action that we are about to do. We must give consider-

ation to Americans who are not able to give consideration for themselves.

□ 0910

DAYS OF DEFICIT SPENDING NEAR END

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are constantly asking us how are we going to balance the budget by 2002.

But a more pertinent question is when do my liberal, big-spending colleagues on the other side of the aisle plan to balance the budget? If you do not think it should be done by the year 2002, 7 years from now, when do you think it should be done? Isn't a \$5 trillion debt enough?

The Democrats do not want a balanced budget amendment for one reason. They want Americans addicted to big Government because they are the party of big Government.

You know, I think it is important to address the moral dimension of deficit spending. Thrift, frugality, and deferred gratification are virtues. But deficit spending is a vice that has been used by big-spending politicians as just another incumbent-protection device. In the words of Harry Hopkins, they would "borrow and borrow, spend and spend, elect and elect."

But those days are about to end, Mr. Speaker.

HASTE MAKES WASTE

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, good morning.

I rise today to clarify for the American people what this balanced budget debate is all about. Make no mistake about it, the Democrats want a balanced budget. The difference is, we want to do it right.

I am from the State of Maryland, 10 years in the State legislature. We had a balanced budget. We are one of only about seven States with a triple-A bond rating, but we understand how to do it right and that is what we need to do on the floor of this assembly.

First we need truth-in-budgeting. We need to know exactly what cuts will be necessary in order to balance the budget. You would not buy a house without knowing the mortgage payments. We need to know what we are going to have to do in order to balance this budget. It seems to me people are wondering will it really cause a 20-percent cut in Medicare? Will it really cut out veterans' benefits, truth-in-budgeting?

Second, preserve Social Security. Yesterday we went through a charade. We passed a resolution. That is not the force of law. We need to put in law that

in addition to a balanced budget, we are going to keep our original contract. The original contract was with our senior citizens. We can have a balanced budget but it is important that we do it in the right way, not in the politically expedient way.

BUSINESS AS USUAL MUST GO: CONGRESS MUST PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, America's voters sent us to Washington to change the way the Federal Government does business. They made it very clear that the tax-and-spend mentality and business as usual must end.

The people are aware of the ever-increasing national debt of \$4.5 trillion and the need for a balanced budget amendment. They are also aware that too many here in Congress, do not comprehend the need, nor acknowledge the people's insistence, for it to be done. Americans balance their own budgets. They demand the same of their Government.

The people are burdened by paying over half of their income in taxes. So they fully understand the need for a vote by three-fifths of the Congress before taxes can be raised.

When the U.S. Congress enacts, and 38 States ratify, a balanced budget amendment, it will ensure that the Federal Government does not spend more than it takes in. It will be a first step toward achieving the changes that the voters have demanded, and it will contribute to the reweaving of the fabric of America for future generations.

MEDIA'S ASSERTION OF AMERICANS' ANGER OFF BASE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union Address Tuesday, President Clinton said the American people were engaged in a shouting match. This observation parallels the liberal media's assertion that the American people are angry at each other. This is light years from the truth.

Americans are not angry and they are certainly not shouting at each other.

Mr. Speaker, if the American people are shouting at anybody, they are shouting at the Federal Government. More precisely, they are sickened at the level of irresponsible spending, the bloated and inefficient bureaucracies and the constant drumbeat for more taxes.

The other night President Clinton treated us to an interesting speech and I am glad to see that he supports many of the ideas Republicans have been

talking about for years. But once again I call on the President and my friends on the other side of the aisle to put aside the rhetoric and take action.

This week the President and this Congress have an opportunity to restore faith with the American people and put our financial priorities in order.

We must pass the balanced budget amendment and put an end to the disgrace of deficit spending. Remember, Mr. Speaker, the American people are not shouting at each other. They are shouting at us.

A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES

(Mr. DURBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I think we all know that when it comes to television ratings, the Simpson trial is going to get a lot more viewers than the proceedings of the House of Representatives, but I hope that America will tune in today to this debate on the balanced budget amendment. It is critically important to every American who values Social Security and Medicare. What the Republicans are proposing is literally to make certain that Social Security will be vulnerable to cuts for years to come. They will not tell you, but I think the facts bear us out.

They are going to call for a 30-percent cut in Medicare as a result of today's debate, and senior citizens will pay more out of pocket, have fewer services, and we will see hospitals closing across America.

These are facts the Republicans do not want to disclose but they are simple facts that are inevitable conclusions from where they stand. We should not be surprised.

Speaker NEWT GINGRICH wrote in USA Today in 1987, "It's time to replace Social Security."

It is no priority for the Republicans, but it is a priority for America to protect our senior citizens, to protect Social Security and to protect Medicare.

SUPPORT BBA WITH THREE-FIFTHS REQUIREMENT

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last November the American people decided that Congress must take responsibility for their action and must be held accountable for the taxpayers' money. The public has lost all faith in the job that is being done by Congress. For the public to regain their trust and respect in our Government, we must pass a balanced budget amendment including a three-fifths requirement to increase taxes.

When this requirement takes effect, people will be reassured that Congress cannot blindly raise their taxes. The

amendment will help ensure a safe financial future for our children and grandchildren so they do not have to pay for the spending mistakes of yesterday.

□ 0920

Every day Americans strongly support a balanced budget amendment. People understand the necessity of paying bills, balancing checkbooks, and living within their means. It is unfortunate that people struggle to make ends meet but their Government does not understand the concept.

Enough is enough. It is time for us to reign in the out-of-control spending habits of this Congress. I ask my fellow Members, both Democrats and Republicans, to support the balanced budget amendment with the three-fifths protection for American citizens.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY IN A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. BRYANT of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we will take up the balanced budget amendment and I am one Democrat who supports an amendment. But I support an amendment that protects Social Security. There is no reason why we cannot pass a balanced budget amendment that still maintains the guarantee to senior citizens that Social Security will not be touched.

We have heard some of these Republicans raise questions about why we are talking about Social Security. I will tell Members why. It is because you fellows elected a Speaker of the House who has called for abolishing Social Security. The Republican Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, in 1986 called for abolishing Social Security and turning it into some kind of a mandatory IRA program, and I am quoting from the Atlanta Constitution, November 1986.

Also because you Republicans elected a majority leader, DICK ARMEY, who did the same thing. He cosponsored a special provision for a mandatory retirement account that was supposed to substitute for Social Security. He also spoke out a few years ago about the fact that we never should have started Social Security in the first place.

Senior citizens have a good reason to be afraid of what Republicans are going to do to Social Security. Today when we vote for an amendment to balance the budget, we ought to vote for a provision to protect Social Security.

SINGING VERSUS SHOUTING

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union Address Tuesday night, President Clinton said that in the 1992 and 1994 elections, we did not